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just the facts

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Friday, Aug. 12, 1994
Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!
(217) 283-9348 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

Pictures in Rossville business may be out of this world

It's been said that the camera doesn't lie. If that's true, Shannon Beaupre may have an uninvited guest in her home.

Beaupre and her husband, Matthew, operate the One Stop Baby Shop in Rossville's former opera house at 108 N. Chicago St. The couple and their son, Austin, live in an apartment above the store.

While there is nothing unusual about that, there is something unusual about two pictures of Austin taken in the Beaupres' bedroom last November.

In the pictures, Austin, then 11 months old, is standing next to a dresser. Near him is a white, human-shaped mass that appears to be walking away from the child.

What that mass is remains a mystery. "No one has said 'That's a ghost,' but no one has been able to give us a technical explanation," Beaupre said.

There was nothing unusual about how the pictures were taken or developed, Beaupre said. The

room has no mirrors or windows. The pictures, 15th and 16th on a 24-picture roll of film, were shot by Beaupre with an Olympus automatic camera.

The film was taken to Pamida in Hoopeston, where it was sent out to be developed.

The camera, film and pictures have all been examined, and while a practical explanation has not been given, "they can't rule out that it might be some technical thing, a one-in-a-million thing," Beaupre said.

The family thinks the form may be explained by something less normal and more paranormal.

"When we first moved in, we'd hear things," Beaupre said. "When I'd lay my son down, I'd say things like 'Please be nice to him and take care of him.'"

Another reason the couple thinks the form is other-worldly is because of Austin. "He'd turn

See PICTURES on other side

Hospital, nursing home receive organization accreditation

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital and Nursing Home has achieved accreditation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health-care Organizations.

The accreditation comes as a result of the hospital's complicants with nationally-recognized health care standards.

Formed in 1951, the Joint Commission is dedicated to improving the quality of the nation's health care through voluntary accreditation.

The commission's on-site survey occurred in May

John C'lem, director of hospital accreditation services, said Hoopeston "should be proud that the hospital and nursing home is focusing on the most challenging goal --to continuously raise quality to higher levels."

Administrator Rod Burkett spoke of his pride in employees who work hard providing quality health care and meeting the requirements set forth by the Joint Commission.

He called the accreditation "proof of an organization-wide commitment to provide quality care on an ongoing basis."


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Pictures continued from other side

and carry on a conversation with what appeared to be nothing," Beaupre said. "We just thought that's what kids do. Maybe that is what kids do. But when you see the pictures, it all starts coming back to you."

The family, who moved to Rossville recently from Greenwood, Ind., is not sure who the blur might have been.

The building was erected in 1904 as a Masonic temple. It has also served as an opera house and auction building. According to legend, Al Capone often visited the building.

Beaupre hopes to learn if someone died tragically in the building. "The Rossville Historical Society is going through old *Rossville Press* (issues) to see if anybody died," she said.

The photographs were cause for alarm, at least for a little while. "Right after we got the pictures back, we slept with the lights on," Beaupre said. "But my husband said if something was here, it had been here a long time and it would've hurt us if it was going to."

The pictures, now displayed in Beaupre's business, are a hot topic among customers. At least 70 to 90 percent of the people are really fascinated by the pictures," she said, adding customers often bring others back to view the photos.

Not everyone has been so accepting, however. "We've had a couple women who said they couldn't shop here because of the pictures," she said.

While the pictures haven't been analyzed by an expert in the paranormal, Beaupre said some-

Police News



Terry W. Nichols, 22, of 820 E. Thompson, was arrested at 10:57 p.m. Wednesday, on a warrant. He was released after posting \$300 bond.

Police are investigating a hit and run accident at 11:42 p.m. Wednesday. An unidentified vehicle struck a parked 1987 Buick Century owned by Linda S. Norton, 712 E. Main. The accident occurred in the parking lot of BJ's pump.

one familiar with the subject did look at them.

That person told Beaupre that what looks like texture in the blur is actually motion. He suggested taking pictures in other parts of the apartment to see if the form could be photographed again..

Beaupre said she has tried, with little success. Only one other picture, of five or six rolls of film shot since the original pictures were taken, has shown even a small white blur, she said.

An organization dealing with the paranormal has offered the couple money for the negatives and rights to the pictures, as has the *National Enquirer*.

The pictures have been copyrighted "so no one can take the pictures and make money from them," Beaupre said, adding she is not interested in selling them.

This is the first time anyone has suggested the building may be inhabited by spirits, said owner Merv Smith.

Smith's daughter also lives in an apartment on the second floor and has not reported unusual sounds or sightings. "Nobody who's ever lived there has ever said anything," Smith said.

While Beaupre is not sure she believes in ghosts, she isn't taking chances. "I figure if we're nice to them, they'll be nice to us," she said.

Beaupre particularly likes one explanation. "I had a rough pregnancy," she said. "We've always said this must be his guardian angel."

In the hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

Aug. 10, 1994

Admitted: Tamara McCalla, Hoopeston.

Discharged: none.

Weather



Partly sunny and a little warmer today. High in the mid to upper 80s. Tonight, fair. Low in the low to mid 70s. Tomorrow and Sunday, isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 80s, lows in the low 70s.

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